

Minster Church of St Cuthburga

MINSTER PRAISE!

25th October 2020, 11.15am



'This is the Word of the Lord'

(A Service for Bible Sunday)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION Mike Dodds Lay Worship Leader

CALL TO WORSHIP

Gathered together in the square
young and old
men and women
certain and seeking
slave and free.

Gathered together in the square
they opened the book
read and listened
talked and prayed.

They opened the book
gathered together in the square
and heard the Word of God.

Let us now gather
together
in the square
to open the book
and hear the Word of God.

PRAYER (based on Psalm 119: 97 – 104)

Oh, how I love your law!
I meditate on it from the rise of the sun to its setting.
**Your commands are always with me
and make me wiser than the world that surrounds me.**

Your Word gives me more insight than my teachers,
for I meditate on your statutes
until they become part of me.

**I have more understanding than the elders,
for I obey your precepts and live by their words.**

Because you yourself have taught me,
I have no need to stray from your law and your path.

**O Holy God, how sweet your words are to taste,
sweeter than honey on the tongue.**

**Because you desire us to know your holy Word,
help us to read it night and day.**

**O Holy Spirit, come to us this day
and teach us sweet words again!
Make our minds and thoughts richer,
so that we may know your law
and your word can show us
your loving and wise heart. Amen.**

SONG – Speak, O Lord as we come to you to receive the food of your holy word

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.

Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us
All Your purposes, for Your glory.
Teach us Lord full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise
Cause our eyes to see,
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

We hear the first of our two Bible readings

Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-12 (NIV) - read by De Ashton

When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, all the people assembled as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel.

So on the first day of the seventh month, Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. He read it aloud from daybreak

till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion... Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

The Levites ... instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read.

Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all. "This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day to our Lord. Do not grieve for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a sacred day. Do not grieve."

Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We confess we have strayed away from your Word
We cry out to you, O God

We confess that we have allowed the worries of this world
to drive us away from your vision for our lives
We cry out to you, O God

We confess that there is strife and contention all around us
We cry out to you, O God

Let us confess together:

**That we are powerless
and have taken our focus off your Word....
that we have not allowed your Word to work in our lives,**

**yet we continue to cry out to you in times of trouble and need.
Grant understanding and wisdom
that we may see your vision and apply it in our lives.
Hear our prayer, O God, and
Call us back to you.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE
(inspired by Luke 19: 1-10)

The scriptures tell us that God's love will find us
no matter how far away we are from the Word.
Just as Jesus found Zacchaeus hiding in a tree,
God will find us and bring us home.
It does not matter what we have done wrong,
we still belong to God.
We have the assurance that God will rescue us.
This is the good news of the Gospel!

We now hear our second Bible reading

Romans 15:1-6 (NIV) - read by Jackie Leever

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings
of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of
us should please his neighbour for his good, to
build him up. For even Christ did not please
himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those
who insult you have fallen on me." For everything
that was written in the past was written to teach us,
so that through endurance and the encouragement of
the Scriptures we might have hope.

May the God who gives endurance and encourage-
ment give you a spirit of unity among yourselves
as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart
and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of
our Lord Jesus Christ.

TALK by Gareth Davies – Church Engagement Manager Bible Society
(This will be followed by a time of discussion and a Q and A session)

We now proclaim what we believe

**We believe and know
that Jesus is the Holy One of God.**

**We believe that he is the Christ,
the Son of God,
who was to come into the world.**

**We believe that he is in the Father
and the Father is in him.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God,
and that by believing
we have life in his name. Amen.**

PRAYERS – led by Andrew Patrick

This includes a time of open prayer, when you can unmute your microphone and share your concern for people or situations. This is followed by the Lord's Prayer, which we shall say together

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

Let's give each other a sign of peace (*a wave and greeting*)

SONG *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet*

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
When I feel afraid,
Think I've lost my way,
Still You're there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear
As long as You are near;
Please be near me to the end.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

I will not forget,
Your love for me, and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus be my guide
And hold me to your side,
I will love You to the end.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Amy Grant & Michael Smith

SENDING OUT

The Father whose glory fills the heavens,
cleanse you by his holiness
and send you to proclaim his word.

Amen

The Son who has ascended to the heights,
pour upon you the riches of his grace.

Amen

The Holy Spirit the Comforter,
equip you and strengthen you in your ministry.

Amen

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Registered Charity 1138072;

CCLI Licence no.22197

Material from Common Worship © The Archbishops' Council 2006; New Patterns of Worship

© The Archbishops' Council 2002

Scripture quotations: Holy Bible New International Version Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society

Songs: 'Speak O Lord' Copyright © 2005 Thankyou Music, administered UK and Europe by Integritymusic, part of the David C Cook Family songs@integritymusic.com; 'Thy Word' Lyrics © Warner Chappell Music Inc., Universal Music Publishing Group

*Call to Worship: written by Katherine Hawker, and posted on **Liturgy***

***Outside.** <https://liturgyoutside.net/>*

Prayer: written by Rev. Jan Brooks, Cottonwood Falls Presbyterian Church, Kansas.

*Call to Confession and Assurance of God's Love: from Reformation and Reconciliation, written by LT Leticia Rouser. Posted on the Worship Ways page of the **United Church of Christ** website.*

<http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-c/p/pentecost-ordinary-time-9.html>

*Affirmation of Faith: written by Michael Perry. Posted on **The Jubilate Group** website.*

<http://www.jubilate.co.uk/liturgy/>

Slides prepared by Jackie Leavers